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ON PAGE A-4

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NATO chief says Soviets back peace groups

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London (AP)—NATO Secretary General Joseph Luns said yesterday that intelligence reports indicate the Soviet Union is aiding peace movements in the West, but two U.S. congressmen strongly disagreed.

The heated exchange took place at a meeting of the North Atlantic Assembly, a grouping of parliament members from the 16 nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Mr. Luns, NATO's top civilian official, said "some new reports from the secret services" showed Western anti-nuclear campaigns were "strongly aided by the Soviet Union, including financial support."

Representative Phillip Burton (D, Calif.) told Mr. Luns: "I am most agitated by your presentation. . . . You are not serving the cause of the al-

liance by such simplistic explanations."

Mr. Burton recalled that California and seven other states voted for nuclear-freeze proposals at the November 2 midterm U.S. elections. He rejected any hint that the Communists were behind the nuclear-freeze movement.

Senator Claiborne Pell (D, R.I.) also objected. He said demonstrations against nuclear arms, including one by hundreds of thousands of people in New York's Central Park, were spontaneous expressions of concern.

President Reagan argues that a nuclear-freeze now—supported by Moscow—would fix the Soviet Union's nuclear advantage.

At a news conference last week, the president said "there is plenty of

evidence" that foreign agents helped organize the major pro-freeze demonstrations. The White House press office later said Mr. Reagan had in mind a *Reader's Digest* article alleging Soviet involvement in the freeze movement, along with other publications the White House listed.

But the most detailed source on the White House list, a transcript from a House Intelligence Committee hearing in 1980, did not mention the freeze movement.

Mr. Luns said peace movements in Europe were "more afraid of nuclear weapons that NATO does not have yet than the Soviet SS-20 missile."

Earlier, Mr. Luns told the assembly that moves in the U.S. Congress to cut back by 20,000 the 300,000 Americans troops in Western Europe "would have a fatal effect on the defense of Europe and be a present to the Soviet Union."

British Defense Minister John Nott and a number of other Europeans also spoke out against the proposal.

Mr. Luns said the November 10 death of Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev was an "important moment in international relations."

He said the "first utterances" from the new Soviet leadership "were not very friendly, but certainly not more crisp than before. We must try to induce the Soviet leaders to respond to our overtures."

Mr. Luns said he believed Polish leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski would not have freed Solidarity leader Lech Walesa last week "if he didn't have a green light from the Kremlin."